

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 MC-02 ERDA-05 ERDE-00 OES-03 EB-07

COME-00 NRC-05 IO-10 /094 W  
----- 021094

P R 181330Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1568

INFO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 8186

E.O. 11652: GDS, DECLAS 12-31-80

TAGS: PFOR MASS BR

SUBJECT: FBIS ITEMS ON ALLEGED DELIVERY OF NUCLEAR ARMS TO  
BRAZIL

REF: STATE 218352

1. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL, CONGEN  
SAO PAULO REPORTED AS FOLLOWS: "HAVE FOUND OUT FROM A FRIENDLY  
AMERICAN SHIPPING COMPANY AGENT IN SANTOS THAT THE BRAZILIAN  
SHIP FLAMENANGO (NOT REPEAT NOT FLAMENGO) OF THE ALIANCA LINE  
DOCKED IN SANTOS RECENTLY COMING FROM FRANCE. THE SANTOS  
PAPER TRIBUNA HAS A REPORTER WHO REGULARLY COVERS THE WATERFRONT  
AND HE NOTICED THE UNUSUAL PRESENCE OF SEVERAL SOLDIERS ON  
THE PIER NEAR WHERE THE FLAMENANGO WAS UNLOADING. AFTER LOOKING  
INTO THE MATTER HE FILED A STORY WHICH APPEARED IN THE TRIBUNA  
ON SEPTEMBER 10 STATING THAT THE SHIP'S CARGO MANIFEST INDICATED  
THAT IT CARRIED NUCLEAR ARMS. THE SANTOS ALIANCA LINE DIRECTOR  
HAS TOLD THE AMERICAN SHIPPING AGENT THAT THE ARTICLE WAS NONSENSE.  
THERE WERE NO NUCLEAR DEVICES ON BOARD THE SHIP, ONLY SEVERAL  
CASES OF SMOKE BOMBS AND A SUPPLY OF ORDINARY AMMUNITION. THE  
FLAMENANGO'S CARGO MANIFEST DOES NOT CONTAIN THE NUCLEAR ITEMS  
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REPORTED. THE AMERICAN SHIPPING COMPANY AGENT IS THE SON-

IN-LAW OF THE PUBLISHER OF TRIBUNA AND THE BROTHER-IN-LAW OF THE EDITOR, AND HE WAS THEREFORE ABLE TO CONFIDE FURTHER THAT GENERAL SANTOS MEYER, COMMANDER OF DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY IN SANTOS, CALLED THE TRIBUNA AND REMONSTRATED WITH THE EDITORS FOR PRINTING THE STORY IN THE FIRST PLACE."

2. IN FOLLOW-UP REPORT, CONGEN SAO PAULO SAID: "THE KEY PHRASE IN THE SEPTEMBER 10 ARTICLE OF TRIBUNA, WHICH WE HAVE JUST OBTAINED, IS AS FOLLOWS: 'A STRONG SECURITY DETACHMENT OF THE ARMY WAS MOBILIZED TO OBSERVE THE UNLOADING OF CARGO LISTED ON THE FLAMENGO'S (SIC) CARGO MANIFEST, AS IF THEY WERE NUCLEAR ARMS' REPEAT 'AS IF THEY WERE NUCLEAR ARMS'. THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO LIST THE ITEMS ACTUALLY OFFLOADED FROM THE VESSEL AT THE PORT OF SANTOS AROUND NOON SEPTEMBER 9 AND/OR WHICH WERE OTHERWISE ON THE SHIP'S MANIFEST, AS FOLLOWS:

'A. MUNITIONS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT WERE OFFLOADED FROM THE VESSEL ON TO FREIGHT CARS OF THE FEDERAL RAILROAD NETWORK (RFF) WHICH DEPARTED FOR SAO PAULO ABOUT 1300 HOURS SEPTEMBER 9, DESTINED FOR THE PARQUE REGIONAL DE AUTOMECANIZACAO OF THE SECOND MILITARY REGION OF SAO PAULO. THE MILITARY SHIPMENT CONSISTED OF 1,706 CASES WEIGHING 80 TONS. THE MOST DANGEROUS PORTION WAS 50 CASES OF AN EXPLOSIVE CALLED FUMIGENE WHICH WERE CONTAINED IN THE AIR-CONDITIONED HOLD NO. 1 OF THE SHIP AND WHICH REQUIRED PARTICULAR CARE IN THE OFFLOADING ON THE PART OF THE STEVEDORES. HOLDS NUMBER 2 AND 3 CONTAINED 1,650 CASES OF MUNITIONS, THAT IS, LOADED CARTRIDGES WEIGHING 53,050 KILOS. HOLD NUMBER 4 CONTAINED SIX CASES OF ARMoured CAR TURRETS WEIGHING 26,772 KILOS.

B. THE SHIP ALSO CONTAINED 874 TONS OF DIVERSE NON-MILITARY MERCHANDISE, OF DIVERSE EUROPEAN ORIGIN, INCLUDING AMONG OTHER CARGO 24 PALLETS CONTAINING MANGANESE WEIGHING 30 TONS, A GREAT QUANTITY OF 'INOFFENSIVE CHEMICALS, TOXICS AND CORROSIVES,' EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL, MEDICAL PUBLICATIONS, SYNTHETIC FIBERS, NICKEL POWDER, LUBRICATING OIL, ROLLER BEARINGS, ALUMINIUM INGOTS, PERFUMES, HERBICIDES, INSECTICIDES AND OTHER MATERIALS. THE ARTICLE LISTS THE FULL NAME OF THE SHIP'S OWNER AS THE EMPRESA DE NEVEGACAO ALIANCA S.A.'. EMBASSY NOTES O GLOBO  
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OF SEPTEMBER 10 HAD (PAGE 6) SIMILAR, LESS DETAILED ACCOUNT.  
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3. EMBASSY INQUIRY (BY ARMA) HAS SO FAR, DESPITE FOLLOW-UPS, NOT PRODUCED A RESPONSE FROM GOB. INDICATIONS ARE THAT BECAUSE OF NUCLEAR ANGLE, MATTER HAS GONE TO A HIGH LEVEL, THUS REQUIRING MORE TIME. IN MEANTIME, WE NOTE THAT MATERIAL AS DESCRIBED BY FIRST FBIS ARTICLE (EXCEPT OF COURSE FOR NUCLEAR QUALIFICATION)

COULD BE FRENCH 90MM GUNS AND TURRETS PURCHASED BY BRAZIL FROM FRANCE LAST YEAR. SEE IR 6 809 0798 74 OF NOVEMBER 1974. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE, BUT AT PRESENT WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE, THAT MATERIAL BEING DELIVERED IS SOME PART OF THE ROLAND MISSILE SYSTEM BRAZIL HAS PURCHASED FROM FRANCE. WE ALSO NOTE THAT THE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH SO IMPRESSED THE NEWSPAPERS ARE NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF THE IMPORTANCE ATTRIBUTED TO THE SHIPMENT: THE BRAZILIAN MILITARY ROUTINELY SENDS ONE UNIT OR ANOTHER OUT ON SOME SUCH DRILL, SIMPLY FOR THE PRACTICE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MARINE TRANSPORTATION, CARGO, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, MILITARY SALES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 SEP 1975  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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